

CITY OF FAIRFAX
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



Committee Members:

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Matthew Cooper
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- Green Building/ Development
- School Activities
- Bicycling Improvements
- Bees
- Invasive Plants
- Energy Efficiency Workshop
- Waste Management
- Outreach
- Stormwater

Improving Recycling in the City of Fairfax

June 25, 2013

City Council Work Session



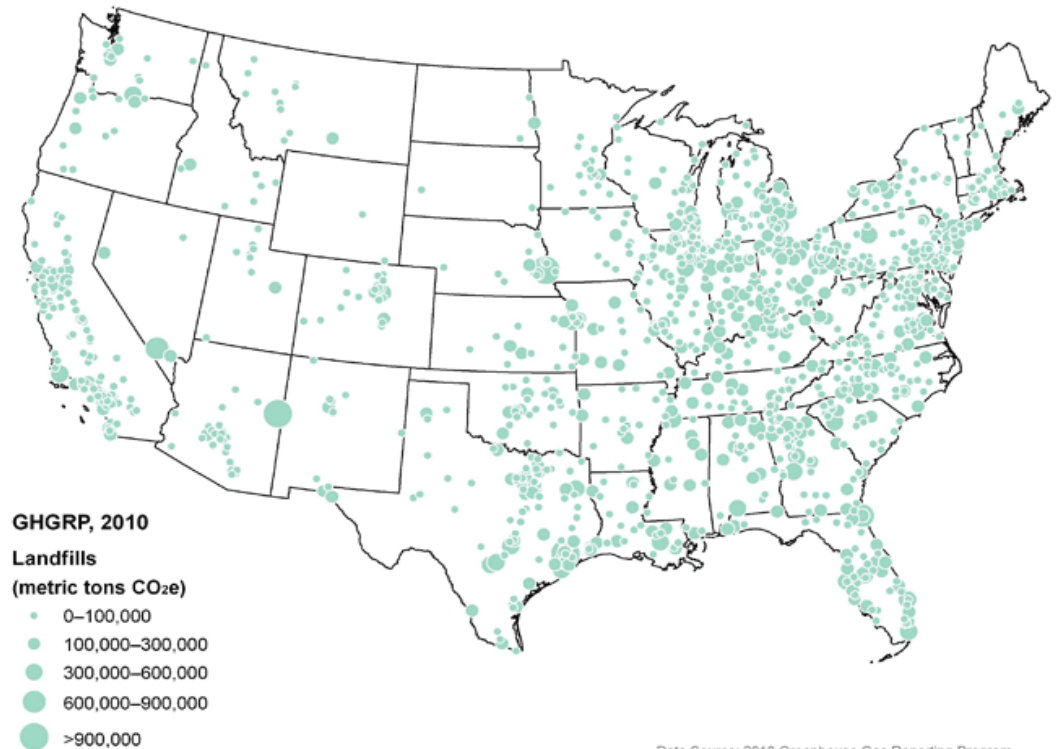
~ AND RECYCLING

CITY OF FAIRFAX REFUSE SERVICE EXCELS AT

- Removing trash quickly and efficiently
- Preventing unsightly, unsanitary conditions
- Providing exceptional, enviable customer service
- Minimizing costs

WASTE MINIMIZATION

Throwing Something Away?

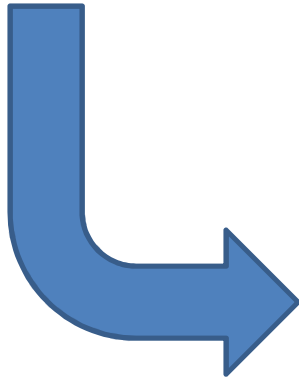


Data Source: 2010 Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

There IS no away....



Americans on average generate 4.4 pounds of trash per day. A robust waste minimization strategy can halve that number based on the experience of other municipalities



The Waste Hierarchy

Preferred Environmental Option



Reduce

Re-use

Recycle

Energy Recovery

Disposal

Least preferred Environmental Option

The New Gold Standard

- Less waste to begin with
- Engaged citizens, businesses and civic organizations
- Sustaining public/private partnerships
- Efficient and targeted waste stream reduction and removal
- Responsive, customer oriented service that the City of Fairfax is known for
- Lower costs



Goals for Recycling:

- Higher household participation rate
- Measure commercial rates
- Increase public event and city property recycling
- Expand the list of recyclables (include commercial cooking oil, food waste, plastic bags)
- Reduce waste

Improvements can be made across the program.
Which areas can we elaborate on?



Commercial Recycling



Recycling at Public Events, Parks and Facilities



Residential Recycling



Green Recycling



E-recycling

HOW?

- Integrating recycling into waste management strategy
- Staff time
- Leadership
- Partnering
- Building on existing program
- Building support in the community
- Integrating into city departments
- Low hanging fruit
- Long range planning

KEEPING THE GOLD!

Success depends on focusing our waste management program on the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials that are currently in our waste stream

The key to the past success of the City's Refuse and Recycling Services:

- Staff responsiveness to the needs and challenges of citizens
- Civic pride
- Cost consciousness
- Concern for community appearance and our natural environment
- Knowledgeable and informed community

These will be our key strengths moving towards a lower impact waste management program

A Comprehensive Approach to Stormwater Planning

- Regulations are changing the landscape
- Citizen Involvement
- Council Leadership
- Reduce potential conflicts/surprises

Outreach and Education

- It is everybody's problem and everybody is part of the solution
- Impervious area means an increasing quantity of runoff
 - 70% higher than forested conditions
- Storm drainage vs. stormwater management
 - Capture stormwater at source or in the conveyance system
 - Stream stabilization and restoration of habitat
- Low Impact Development (L.I.D.) is the future
 - Developer and homeowner incentives
 - Lead by example
 - <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/green/upload/bbfs1benefits.pdf>

Stormwater Fund

As part of a comprehensive stormwater strategy, the stormwater fund should be :

- 1) used for large public projects
- 2) evaluated as to the extent to which each proposed project meets the city's growing regulatory commitments with increased emphasis given to preventive construction projects